

the

# Bullet

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Volume 8.1, No. 21

Serving the Mary Washington Community since 1922

April 3, 2008

## What's Inside

She's Baaack



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Full-Frontal Feminism



Jessica Valenti gets in your face about why feminism is cooler than you think, p. 7



Men's LAX

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## Weekend Weather

Friday

Thunderstorms

High: 71  
Low: 54

Saturday

Showers

High: 66  
Low: 46

Sunday

Partly Cloudy

High: 69  
Low: 46



## UMW Activists Mobilize During Habitat for Humanity's Week-Long Campaign

By ANNIE KINNIBURGH  
Assistant News Editor

As part of national Act! Speak! Build! Week, the UMW chapter of Habitat for Humanity and Community Outreach and Resources (COAR) teamed up to raise awareness about the problem of homelessness.

COAR, the largest volunteer and service organization on campus, has worked with Habitat for Humanity for the past four years on Act! Speak! Build! Week, which features opportunities for students to build houses with the Habitat for Humanity club as well as films and discussions that address the

topic of homelessness.

Junior Lindsay D'Adamo, president of the UMW chapter of Habitat for Humanity and a staff member of COAR, said that the week is an opportunity to encourage advocacy on an issue that is normally ignored.

"The point of the event and the point of Habitat for Humanity is to promote awareness about how students can get involved and help provide affordable housing for those who need it," D'Adamo said.

This year the week featured a new event: the cardboard village. Cardboard boxes were set up in front of Lee Hall, and volunteers sat in them during the

day on April 2 to illustrate the conditions that homeless men and women endure every day.

"People look at homelessness and think of it as just another thing in the world that they can't do anything about," said Norah Almahdali. "But that can change if you spread awareness."

Act! Speak! Build! Week will conclude April 4 with a barbeque featuring

## Act, Speak Build



Beth Wilkins/Bullet

UMW freshman Laila Almahdali's sister, Norah, sits in COAR's Cardboard Village

free food and a contest where students will have the opportunity to throw pies at professors and student leaders.

## Faculty Budget Woes Persist Loses 2 More

By JUSTIN TONEY  
News Editor

As of Monday, two relatively new assistant professors will be leaving the University of Mary Washington in favor of more economically viable positions at other schools.

Kim Stone and Sarah Allen from the department of English, linguistics and speech said that low entry-level salaries and high costs of living in the Fredericksburg area were major factors in their decisions not to return in the fall.

"I came here with the expectation to stay here, to buy a house, and become a part of the community, and it became economically impossible to do that," Stone said.

Stone, who made her decision last Saturday after speaking with her real-estate agent, is renting a two-bedroom apartment for over \$1,000 per month—more than she paid toward a mortgage at her previous five-bedroom house.

She, like Allen, agonized over the decision long before finally making it. "I like the students. I love my colleagues. It's a fabulous department of people which makes the decision that much more difficult, of course," Stone said.

"They'd have made my decision a lot easier if they'd all been jerks," she added.

Both professors cited a workload that was much heavier than at other institutions as another motivation for leaving UMW. Currently, first-year professors are required to teach four courses per semester. Next year, their requirements would have changed to four courses one semester, and three courses the next.

Theresa Kennedy, chair of the department of English, linguistics and speech was unable to comment on personnel matters. She plans to begin searching for 1-year visiting professors to replace Stone and Allen pending the approval of the Provost.



Katy Burnell/Bullet

Gov. Kaine is expected to approve the budget on April 23

## Pres Predicts Tuition Hike, Budget Cuts, Pending Gov. Kaine's Approval

By BRITTANY DEVRIES  
Assistant News Editor

Awaiting Gov. Kaine's final approval on April 23, the University of Mary Washington's tentative 2008-10 budget, released March 13 and e-mailed 10 days later to faculty and staff, has stable recommendations despite the country's unstable economy.

The operating portion of the budget, which covers all academic-based operations, includes a 2 percent salary increase for all employees and a continued \$1,463,234 budget reduction in all general funds, to a base adequacy of \$299,714. It incorporates an addi-

tional annual \$92,624 in student aid, \$631,660 for the Higher Education Equipment Trust Fund (HEETF) each year of the biennium, a \$251,102 reduction for the Eminent Scholars program, and a statewide \$1.6 million for interest earnings and rebates.

Acting President Richard Hurley said that over the past year UMW has had to freeze salary adjustments, equipment, and other operations to try and balance the budget while preparing for a possibly permanent financial reduc-

▶ See BUDGET, page 5

## \$75 Mil Centennial Campaign Underway

By GRACIE HART  
Staff Writer

Mere hours after the celebration of Founder's Day, the University launched a public phase of a \$75 million Centennial Campaign.

According to Associate Vice President for Business and Finance Richard Pearce, state funding provides \$23,378,403—27 percent—of an \$85,242,000 budget for this fiscal year. Originally launched July 1, 2000 with a goal of \$40 million, the public phase of the Centennial Campaign was

introduced on Friday, March 14 with a new goal of \$75 million.

The funds from the campaign will provide the University with enough monetary sources to attract new faculty members and students, upgrade and fund construction, and to maintain other day-to-day operations.

"When we began this campaign in 2000, our goal was \$40 million," said Vice President for Advancement Jeff Rountree, in a news release. "When we surpassed the goal several years ahead of schedule, we decided to keep the mo-

mentum going and nearly double our initial target to \$75 million. This is ambitious, but totally achievable."

The campaign raises money for the University through the donation of private gifts. It is then broken down into \$35 million for endowments, \$25 million for capital projects and campus enhancements and \$15 million for the Fund for Mary Washington.

Endowments are very important to universities as the principal amount is

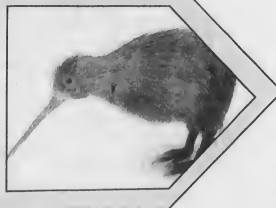
▶ See CAMPAIGN, page 5

## Happy April Fool's

"We decided to cancel classes a week early for fear that the seniors just wouldn't do any work, and if we're going to cancel class for them, we had to for everyone."

--Acting President Rick Hurley

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▶ See TEACHERS, page 5

## Weekly Events

### Giant Comedy Series Presents: Shane Mauss



Tonight at 8 p.m.  
Doors at 7 p.m.  
Great Hall  
Free Show

UMW student Molly Sullivan will take the stage first.

?s- [giant@umw.edu](mailto:giant@umw.edu)

### She Stoops to Conquer

Starting Thursday,  
April 3 at 8 p.m.  
Klein Theatre  
\$4 UMW ID  
\$8 Student or Senior  
\$10 Standard

?s or tickets, call:  
(540) 654-1124

### 18th Annual Multicultural Fair

Saturday, April 5  
Campus Walk 10-5

Featuring entertainment, food and craft vendors; rain or shine; free  
For more info, call (540) 654-1044

### Georgie James

Opens Carlos, I'm Pregnant! & Tereu Tereu \$5  
Sunday, April 6

3rd Floor Studio  
810 Caroline St.

6-9:30 p.m.



Events courtesy of OSACS.

Want to get involved?  
Come to a staff meeting in the Bulletin office this Sunday at 8 p.m.



# Police Beat

By KATY BURNELL  
News Editor



**March 24-** At 1:24 a.m., a Randolph Hall R.A. notified Campus Police after finding a partially-discharged fire extinguisher on the second floor. The \$50 extinguisher had been replaced in its cradle, but the contents were scattered on the floor.

**March 26-** At 1:00 a.m., a 20-year-old Randolph Hall resident informed Campus Police that a thief had cut the cable lock on his green Schwinn bicycle. He had left the \$50 bicycle locked to the rack in front of his residence hall. There are no suspects or witnesses in the on-going investigation.

**March 26-** At 10:30 a.m., a female UMW Apartments resident notified Campus Police that her bright blue wallet with yellow polka dots was missing from her purse. She had left the purse containing the wallet, a \$50 value, in a fitness center cubby during her workout session. There are no suspects or witnesses in the on-going investigation.

**March 26-** At 1:30 p.m., University employees summoned Campus Police to the fourth floor of

Mason Hall where they had discovered a .22-caliber bullet. The responding officer did not report finding additional evidence and Residence Life decided that the lone bullet did not warrant room searches.

**March 27-** At 2:55 p.m., a 19-year-old male commuter student reported a hit and run after finding his silver VW golf damaged in the parking deck. The incident, which had occurred two days previously, caused a \$1,000 damage to the Golf's right rear bumper.

**March 28-** At 1:47 a.m., Residence Life staff alerted Campus Police after finding a suicidal Virginia Hall resident. The 18-year-old student had ingested a cocktail of prescription drugs including generic percoet and the anti-depression medication, lorazepam. She was rushed to Mary Washington Hospital for treatment.

**April 1-** At 8:34 p.m., an officer on bike patrol in the Monroe Hall parking lot witnessed a near-fatal accident. A student who had stepped outside to

take a smoke break under a large tree came two seconds from annihilation when a tree limb came crashing down. The 25-year-old female commuter student avoided disaster by running from the falling limb, but the blue light phone she was standing near was obliterated.

**March 27-** At 1:23 a.m., an officer on patrol observed two females crossing William Street headed towards Sunken Road. One female was reportedly stumbling and fell in the middle of the street. The officer approached the individuals and discovered that they had been drinking. One, a 19-year-old Marshall Hall resident, received administrative referral while the other, her 17-year-old younger sister, received a ride home from her mother after police notified the Warrenton, Va. family.

**March 30-** At 5:50 p.m., an officer on patrol discovered the word "Penalty" scrawled across an academic building sign in pink paint pen. The same graffiti tag has been found at nearby Riverbend High School in Spotsylvania County.

## Admins Break Bad on UMW Breakers

By KAT SAUNDERS  
Staff Writer

The Breakers, UMW's student break-dancing club, claims that the Office of Student Activities (OSACS) has prevented them from holding a break-dancing competition involving anyone outside the campus community.

According to club president Matt Diniega, OSACS has said that the Breakers are not allowed to hold a break-dancing event with other schools or with non-students, despite the fact that such events are allowed at other schools such as James Madison University and George Mason University.

Michele Carneiro, former president of the Breakers, said that the club first tried to hold a competition in fall 2007. The club was told that a competition with non-UMW students could be a liability.

Carneiro says they were denied the option of using waivers to ensure that the students and not the University would be held responsible in case of accidents or mishaps.

"OSACS told us that waivers do not hold up in court," Carneiro said, "even though the boxing club, a club which actually throws punches at one another's face, had a boxing match last year and used waivers."

However, OSACS officials said that the club has been treated fairly under OSACS guidelines and has failed to contact the office for further assistance.

Diniega and Carneiro both said that

they had previous problems with OSACS and the gym staff about planning meetings and practices, including having room reservations cancelled suddenly.

OSACS Director Joe Mollo said that his staff has tried to work with the Breakers. However, he said that due to the variety of employees working in the OSACS office, including students, temps, and regular employees, the office cannot keep track of club problems without clear communication.

"It might just be a communication issue," Mollo said. "If they have an issue, they should come in and discuss it. I personally have not seen them."

Susan Knick, assistant vice president for public safety and community services, said that the safety and liability issues vary on a case-by-case basis, and that the Breakers might have made requests that could potentially harm the University.

"There are many, many areas reviewed when a club wishes to have an event," said Knick. "There are liability issues in hosting any event and it may be that the venues in which the club wished to host an event were not adequately safe for the intended use which would have increased the liability to the University."

Knick also explained that the policy prohibiting non-UMW members from attending club meetings is typical for clubs and not confined to the Breakers.

"Club meetings and events are usually not open to the general public be-

cause the funds under which the club operates and the venues in use are supported by student-generated funds and should go toward the benefit of students and not the general public," she said in an e-mail interview.

OSACS Assistant Director Stephen Thomas said in an e-mail that he has tried to contact the club about planning a larger event, but has not been contacted back.

The Breakers will be performing at the upcoming Multicultural Fair on April 5. Club members have performed at the fair multiple times, as well as events for the Islamic Student Association, the Wellness Fair, Small Show for PAC, Parents Weekend and Black History Month, among others.

"I don't understand how a club can give so much and get nothing back," Carneiro said.

She added that the club gave up on planning an event after becoming frustrated with the planning process.

Mollo said that procedures for planning club events changed in mid-February. Forms will not be sent outside the OSACS office for security and safety approval until OSACS has evaluated the plans themselves for any potential problems.

"We're trying to take the bureaucracy out of it for the students and make it a little easier to do things," he said.

"Any student that has an issue with an office should come in and talk with us."

## Housing Sparks Protest

By JESS MASSULI  
Staff Writer

UMW students slept in Jefferson Square March 27 to protest this year's housing shortage.

According to Christine Porter, director of residence life, approximately 130 students have not received housing for the fall 2008 semester. The most ever not to receive assignments was in 2004.

Freshman Emily Morton, who did not receive housing, helped organize the camp-out, in which 15 students spent the night in Jefferson Square.

"After listening to many students' stories, my friends and I decided that a change needed to be made in the housing process," Morton said. "For instance, housing selection should take place online."

Porter said that while online selection would simplify the process, it is not a viable option at the present time.

"It's not as simple as I think some people believe it is," she said. "It involves a considerable investment of time, money, and people—resources that we don't have at this time."

Porter said that the protesters were welcome to express their opinions.

"Anything that spurs dialogue has the potential to spark change," she said.

Students who do not receive housing are placed on a priority list, meaning they are guaranteed housing by the beginning of the fall semester.

## Tunnel Teaches

By JOHN MALTEMPO  
Staff Writer

Mary Washington hosted its first "Tunnel of Oppression" event March 29 and 30, sponsored by the Academic Affairs Council (AAC).

The Tunnel of Oppression is a series of multi-sensory exhibits meant to bring awareness to a particular cause or issue related to oppression in some form. The program has been implemented on many college campuses throughout the country.

The event was held in eight rooms in Combs Hall, and a different UMW club ran each room. The room used by the James Farmer Multicultural Center was set up to discuss racial discrimination in court cases.

The AAC set up its own room with hanging white sheets of paper surrounding the occupants, and participants listened to audio recordings of different views on the idea of white privilege.

One room, set up by the Animal Rights Club, used four television screens to show scenes of graphic animal abuse caught on tape.

Alpha Mu Sigma, the new fraternity on campus, hosted a room focusing on women in the workplace. This room was organized so that men sat in comfortable chairs and were asked questions about women in the workplace, while the women sat at computers. If the men did not know the answer to a question posed to them, the women were told to find it.

The Tunnel of Oppression is planned to occur again next year and Alpha Mu Sigma has been announced as the spon-

sor. Sophomore, co-founder and Vice President of the fraternity Heather Jones responded to the decision.

"I think some people have preconceptions about Alpha Mu and this is yet another way for us to show how invested we are in the Mary Washington Community," Jones said.

Students for a Democratic Society used their room to create an interactive experience that addressed oppression in many forms. Members created a walk through game of life, complete with class, racial, and sexual discrimination.

People for the Rights of Individuals of Sexual Minorities had a gender identity room where one could not say any gender specific terms when answering questions asked by the leaders of the room.

The most visually striking room, dark and only lit with black light, was from Guerrilla Art Liberation Lives. In it there were several desks, each with a black light shining on a white cutout of an offensive term.

The final club participant was the Economic Development Club discussing the Copenhagen Consensus. Each member was tied down to illustrate the restraints on the economic growth of a country.

Senior Kate Leboeuf is an AAC member and helped put on the Tunnel of Oppression program after attending one at Berkeley two years ago.

"I loved the idea and thought that it would be a great program for Mary Washington, especially considering some of the bad press we get in the way of diversity," Leboeuf said.

## 2007 Virginia Press Association College Contest Results:

### 1st Place in Column Writing

Awarded to: Susannah Clark  
for her column 'Susannigans'

### 1st Place in General News Writing

Awarded to: Katy Burnell & Justin Toney  
for coverage of 'Jefferson Hall Controversy'

### 2nd Place in Editorial Cartoons

Awarded to: Stone Ferrell

### 3rd Place in Spot News Writing

Awarded to: Elizabeth Nowrouz  
for coverage of 'UMW President Arrested'

### 3rd Place in General Makeup

Awarded to: The Bullet

The Virginia Press Association is an organization that represents the interests of Virginia newspapers in the General Assembly. Each year, the VPA hosts a contest whereby all college papers from across the state can be judged by accomplished journalists and editors.

# Viewpoints

## Staff Editorial

And who are you, Mary Washington?

It is common knowledge that this campus is vastly white and more than mostly female.

Common knowledge tells us that most of our readership comes from upper-middle class suburbia. But what we assume to be "common knowledge" is too often a misconstrued stereotype.

This is not a campus of white suburban women, but a varied community of active people. Students and professors work well beyond their classrooms to change the world. Clubs, groups, and individuals protest injustice and ignorance.

This is a community of good intent, and— more importantly— good work. Looking beyond the stereotypes, we see truly.

Perhaps too often we all buy into too much common knowledge. We unfairly group people into poor-fitting stereotypes, and forget the individuals who should be on the front page more often.

The assistant professor who barely scrapes a living to keep on teaching; the African American student who feels out of place in an institution of open-mindedness; the under-appreciated staff member who handles your trash; the alumna shopkeeper who has lived here her whole life; the man who sleeps under the bridge each night, waiting for someone to offer him real change— not just a passing payment: these too are Mary Washington, no matter what common knowledge says.

It is time to stop making assumptions about ourselves. It is time we start employing the liberal arts philosophy we claim to uphold— time to stop judging people as "minorities," "white bread college kids," "crazy anarchists," "fanatical Christians," "frat boys," etc.

You are Mary Washington. Let everyone see it, because they owe it to you to see you the way you truly are.

And when it comes to understanding each other this way, well, you owe that to yourselves.

## BARACK OBAMA 2008



**The sports, the motorheads, geeks, sluts, bloods, waists, dweebies, dickheads - they all adore him. They think he's a righteous dude.**

Copyright 2008 by Stone Ferrell

## "One-Strike" Policy is More than Necessary

The following was written in response to "One-Strike Drug Policy is Due to Strike Out," March 27, 2008, The Bulletin.)

Dear Editor:

First off, I appreciate the concern of the Students for a Democratic Society and, at least according to the guest columnist on March 27, the majority of the student population at UMW.

The one-strike policy with respect to use of illegal drugs is something to cause concern. I similarly recognize it as a complex issue with multiple sides, but I feel that after weighing all the factors it is not time for a change.

Do not get me wrong. I understand where the worries and arguments are coming from but they just do not convince me that justice should go take a break.

What do I mean by that? Well, the drugs are illegal.

Should we allow them on campus? No.

Now for a look into the study, which I thank all those involved for all the work they did:

"One participant said she had used drugs but believed the policy should not be changed. This result is assumed to be unreliable and will be removed altogether."

Maybe that one is a statistical outlier, but it illustrates a good point. Responsibility, willingness to accept that one has broken the law and accept the consequence.

I admit that it may be very appealing to be counted among the more forgiving, not those "least forgiving among us."

Yet does forgiveness imply abrogation of the consequences? It is not about forgiveness but it is that I agree with the policies purpose of preventing drug use.

I do know of people who have stopped using drugs now that they are here precisely because of the strict policy.

"Either due to compassion, concern for their friends, or whatever other reason, the one-strike penalty is not making students happy." As wonderfully put as this bit of rhetoric is, it

proves nothing besides the ease of appealing to the sense of compassion.

Yet if you feel compassion for someone, would you wish evil on them? The laws are there to prevent evil. Therefore, if there is a problem with the laws against those drugs it certainly is not an issue with the policy at Mary Washington but with the laws. Likewise, do not fall into the trap that the policy is supported because of negative stereotypes.

Nor is it that "21 percent of the students who make up this

community are so destructive that they should be expelled."

Yet, according to the survey, 21 percent have violated the policy on not using illegal drugs which is a violation also of the honor code which, last I checked, we still pretend has some hold on us.

Some people do still hold honor in high regard, and if we want to start glorifying breaking the law or accepting breaking the law then I think much greater damage to the university is being done than would happen even if everyone who has done illegal drugs on campus were caught and expelled.

"Finally, if we look at the effect of expelling these students on society as a whole, we think it's intuitively apparent that a college graduate that smokes pot will contribute more than a person who was expelled before finishing college and smokes pot."

Unless said person who was expelled rights their ways, applies elsewhere, and becomes a college grad who does not smoke pot. Alternatively, the college grad that does not smoke pot out of respect for the law and honor code.

Moreover, there is the damage to society that is done by breaking the law. Is a grade higher on a test worth breaking the honor code and cheating?

Do not we all agree that in the end you end up hurting yourself more, and society? If it is so in this small matter then how much more so in larger matters of law?

To quote Alex Rohde, the author of the opposing view presented on March 27, "It is for all these reasons: ethical, democratic, and pragmatic that" I feel relaxing the one-strike policy is not the best option.

I encourage all those who believe in the policy to stand with me in opposition and to check Facebook for a group to join to speak out.

Jacob McCrumb is a freshman.



image courtesy of frenchyslawn.com

**the Bulletin**

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Mary Washington  
Community since 1922.

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The Bulletin is published on Thursday afternoons during the fall and spring semesters. All decisions are made by the editorial board, independent of The Bulletin adviser.

### Letter and Editorial Policy

The Bulletin is always eager to receive letters to the editor and guest columns, and every effort is made to print them.

Letters should be submitted the Monday before publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words, and columns should not exceed 700 words.

We will not publish anonymous submissions. Letters must include a phone number and address for purposes of verification. They can be mailed to the Bulletin at 1701 College Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA, 22401-4666, delivered to our office in Seacobeck Hall or sent to our e-mail at umwbullet@gmail.com.

Opinions expressed in columns or letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff. Contact the Bulletin at 540-654-1133.



# Viewpoints

## Sexclamations

By KJ Adler, Staff Writer

Every day I am grateful that I am no longer in a dorm room.

You can blame the only child thing, you can blame my introvert nature, but really I think it's just plain unnatural when two people who barely know each other are forced to share a room that is no bigger than a movie star's walk-in closet.

Now, I am going to get very honest with you readers this week and I want you to realize that I am not taking this confession lightly: I was a horrible roommate.

It's true. With both of my roommates I was pretty much an ass who lost interest in my roommate's feelings by week two.

Why am I revealing this personality flaw to you? So that I can reveal to you a few rules about the etiquette some idiots, like myself, didn't learn until it was much too late in the game.

I am talking about, of course, dorm room sex etiquette. Some of these I had learned on my own, some I had heard from other friends, but overall I can promise you that these are real rules, developed by real students here at Mary Washington.

So read them well, commit them to memory and for the love of Zeus please practice them.

There will be a lot less tension in the room and a lot less cringing when you think back on your initial sexual escapades during the dorm days.

1. Don't screw around with your sweetheart when the roommate is there.

This should be a big "ol duh" factor for most of you kids. But honestly when you really want to get it on and you can't find any other place to do it, sometimes you find yourselves snuggling in your bed, your roomie "asleep," hands go places and before you know it you're shoving a pillow in your face to keep it down. I can promise you that nine times out of ten you may think the roommate's asleep but he/she is not. Don't put the roommate in that uncomfortable position. If the fever is just too hot to cool then just hide in a study room or bathroom or some other place. Too public for you? Well it's still in public when you're doing it in front of the roommate.

2. Just tell your roomie if there is a special someone in the room with you when the roommate is out.

We have these newfangled things called cell

phones. Just call him/her up if they aren't in the room and tell them to walk around for a half hour or so. Even better, what ever happened to the tie system? Leave a tie on the door, roommates beware! Whatever the technique, let them know. The last thing that anyone wants is for you to be caught with your drawers around your ankles. Unless you're into that sort of thing, in which case there are way more issues at hand then proper roommate etiquette.

3. Throw away the used ones.

You just did your thing and you're feeling for a nap and a sandwich. For those who live alone, no problem. For those with a roommate, you still have a bit of work to do. Clean up after yourselves. The last thing the roommate needs to deal with is any unexpected "surprises" when they get back. Hide the panties, hide the condoms and hide the whipped cream. It's their room too.

4. Don't do it on your roommate's bed.

Never ever ever! I don't care if you two are in an incredibly passionate moment, banging into everything, trying every possible place and position in that small cubicle of a room. The roommate's section is sacred and if they are giving you the courtesy of having the place to yourself for a few hours, the least you can do is keep the dirtiness off of their stuff.

And if you do try it, I promise you they will either walk in or know that it happened.

5. If you shower together, lock the doors.

It's always a special bond when you and your suitemates make it to that point where you can casually walk in while one is taking a shower and the other needs to relieve himself. The last thing the latter person needs to hear is another voice in the shower. Then it's just awkward for all parties involved. Lock the door or tell them not to come in when you hear their door open. Sure, it's awkward for them to be kicked out of the bathroom, but that's much better than using the toilet and hearing hanky panky right next to them.

These rules just skim on the plethora of regulations you need to put yourself under if you don't want to geek your roommate out of ever wanting to live with someone again. However you choose to use these suggestions, most importantly talk it out with the roommate. Communication is key.

Otherwise the tension just becomes suffocating.

## Susannigans

Play that Funky Music, White Girl

By Susannah Clark, Viewpoints Editor

Hip-hop saved my life.

Thus was the conclusion I came to at last Tuesday's Lupe Fiasco concert.

Despite being awkwardly confined to the velvet seats of Dodd Auditorium, the over-whelming white audience still managed to portray exactly how Mary Washington got her groove back. My neck still aches from the constant head-bopping.

I am one of many who had a rough freshman year of college. As I left my high-school bubble of family dinners and girls' nights out in suburbia, I was thrown into an unfamiliar world of Jagerbombs and spontaneous grinding.

My comfort zone quickly deteriorated.

My strict upbringing had me entering college purist and square. I was raised on oldies and NPR.

Along with a few obligatory diversions into bubble-gum pop, I was your typical pop-punk middle schooler turned indie-snob high-schooler, with a solid foundation of Dylan, Springsteen, and the Beatles.

Besides Eminem and Outkast hits from the Top 40, my exposure to hip-hop pre-college was as follows: I knew every word of Coolio's "Kenan and Kel" theme song, and I had seen (then P.) Diddy in concert in the 8th grade.

A brief explanation: he was opening for Briny Spears. I will never forget my father-the-chaperone's reaction to P. Diddy's opening remark: "Ienme hear ya say yeah!"

"I don't want to say 'yeah,' Mr. Diddy," said my own puff daddy. "I just paid you fifty dollars; you're the one who should be saying 'yeah.'"

My point: with the exception of a few VH1 specials on Tupac and Biggie, my knowledge and exposure to rap and hip-hop was not enough to merit any kind of taste whatsoever. I didn't understand it and that made me uncomfortable. I remained hidden behind my Paul Simon EP's.

Enter college, a time of broadened horizons and showering in flip-flops. My mind and ears became open as I met new types of people and listened to new types of music.

All of a sudden, the beats and grunts I once considered primitive and trivial became infectious and captivating.

The egotistical and misogynistic lyrics were oddly refreshing after eighteen years of oversensitive poetic whining. The confines of traditional melody became irrelevant; rap became poetry.

The carefree intensity of hip-hop harmonized perfectly with the anxious time of transition and growing up that was freshman year. When you lose yourself in a beat, all your 99 problems seem to drift away. That's just the way it is.

The Lupe concert was a marking point for my transition into college-life. I have officially stepped outside of my ignorant and close minded emo-shell and have embraced my right to party. Be it Weezer or Weezer, 50 Cent or "50 Ways to Lose Your Lover," good music has no genre.

And damn, does it feel good to be a gangsta.



Be it Weezer or Weezer, 50 Cent or "50 Ways to Lose Your Lover," good music has no genre.

Does anything really grind your gears?



Speak up  
before the  
semester ends!

Send columns and Letters to The Editor  
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## Letter to the Editor: Art Studio News Article Incomplete

The following letter was written in response to "800k Art Studio in the Works" (March 27, 2008, The Bulletin).

Dear Editor:

While my fellow studio art majors and I were thrilled to read about the inclusion of the welding studio in next year's university budget (which we hope will bring resolution to a major inadequacy in our studio facilities), we were somewhat disappointed by the lack of context provided by last week's front-page article, something I have been explaining this past week to a number of inquiring students from outside of the department.

First, by reducing an entire interview with Molly Sheldon, a dedicated senior sculpture student who holds multiple positions (peer elected and faculty appointed) within the Department of Art and Art History, to the Igne quote, "Do you dig art?", taken nonsensically out of context, the article missed a great opportunity to inform the UMW community about the longstanding need for the studio.

Additionally, the article did not address the history of the proposed studio. Far from an unexpected windfall for the department, the approval of the welding studio has been pending all four years I have been a student

here, and quite some time, I understand, before that.

As your article noted, it has always been part of Professor Gammon's "vision" for the program—it is a crucial part of the modernization of the studio art major and a necessary facility for those of us that intend to apply to graduate programs in studio art.

Therefore, the inclusion of a welding studio into next year's budget represents the integrity and commitment of our current administration to both its own word and the importance of the arts at Mary Washington in general.

I first learned about the proposed welding studio on my first day of freshman year, and I was crestfallen when I learned this past summer that it would not be included in the ongoing Melchers Hall renovations and that I would graduate without its benefits.

However, today all of us in the art department are grateful for the opportunities it will provide for subsequent students.

I would like to thank the Bulletin and Ms. DeVries for their informative presentation of the story and President Hurley and the administration for their support of the project.

Robert Lynn is a senior and a studio art student.

# News

## \$75 Million Campaign Moves to Public Phase

◀ CAMPAIGN, page 1

never depleted. The interest, however, is used and this allows the endowment to be a source of long-range support. The university's endowments provide funding for outstanding faculty, scholarships including the Alvey scholarship for a non-Virginia honor student and the Washington scholarship for a Virginia honor student, faculty summer fellowships and other merit or need based scholarships for students.

According to the Annual Report of Gifts of 2004-2005, \$4,667,763 was gifted to the University that year, with \$815,865 designated as Scholarship Endowment and \$42,225 designated as Other Endowment. Reports for more current years were not readily available.

Several completed construction projects have already been funded from the campaign including the Jepson Alumni Executive Center, the University Tennis Center, the Carmen Culpeper Chappell '59 Centennial Campanile, enhancements to dorms and the acquisition of additional land.

According to a lead gifts report, over \$3.9 million has been donated for the Jepson Alumni Executive Center by various donors and \$1 million was donated for the University Tennis Center by Josiah P. III and Anne Wilson Rowe '57.

Several other large donations have been made to the campaign since 2000 including the donation of over \$2 million by John F. Chappell in honor of his wife, Carmen. The donation was used to dedicate several rooms in the Jepson Alumni Executive Center, erect the Campanile and provide an endowment for the Chappell Great Lives Lecture Series.

"I wanted to do something beautiful in Carmen's memory, something tangible and intangible that would remind us of her," Chappell said in a news release. "The Chappell Great Lives Lecture Series has been very successful and is perfect as a memorial for Carmen since she

was a passionate reader."

William Crawley, Jr. and Theresa Crawley have been selected as national co-chairs of the campaign by Associate Vice President for University Advancement Ken Steen who is overseeing the campaign but who was not available at press time. Crawley has been a faculty member of the University for 38 years. He served as Executive Assistant to former president Bill Anderson and is also the university historian. His wife, Theresa, was a member of the class of '77, was the National President of the Alumni Association and currently serves as the secretary of the UMW Foundation Board.

"As chairs of the campaign, our duties are to work with the regional chairs and other volunteers to develop and coordinate the campaign," said Crawley.

"In doing so, we meet also with alumni groups to give them the good news about what UMW is doing today and to inform them of the opportunities that exist for them to help us achieve our institutional goals—and, of course, encourage them to do so."

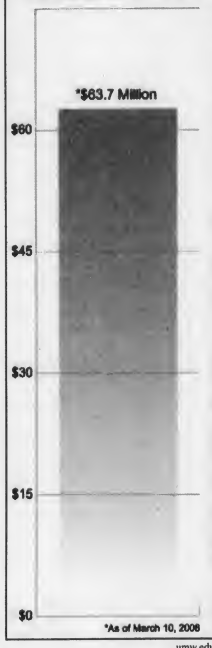
The Crawleys have traveled extensively in support of the Centennial Campaign. This month, they will meet with groups at various locations in Virginia and will be traveling to Philadelphia. They also have meetings scheduled in May in New York and this summer in California.

"It makes for a very busy schedule, trying to fit these events in around our regular professional work, but it is very enjoyable to see the enthusiasm that alumni and other friends of the University have for Mary Washington, and we are gratified by their support," said Crawley.

The University of Mary Washington Centennial Campaign funds will be raised by the University Advancement office and overseen by the University of Mary Washington Foundation. \$63.7 million total has been raised for the campaign since 2000.

James Madison University, founded

### TOTAL CAMPAIGN GOAL \$75 MILLION



on the same day as Mary Washington, has also launched a campaign. The Madison Century campaign is a \$50 million campaign launched in March 2006, and will be completed this year.

Much like the Centennial campaign, the Madison Century Campaign focuses on endowments, improved facilities and annual ongoing support.

## Asst. Profs Quit

◀ TEACHERS, page 1

For years, Acting President Rick Hurley has attempted to raise entry-level faculty salaries by lobbying the Virginia legislature. This year, he says that the limited availability of state funds has made attempts unsuccessful.

"Even though we make a good case, our problem is that we are not the only state agency in northern Virginia so if they increase our salaries, they have to increase others like Germanna, Fish and Game, VDOT, etc.," Hurley said in an e-mail.

Dean of Faculty Rosemary Barra also mentioned that some schools offer new faculty affordable school-owned living space, and that the University is considering such options as a solution for the housing problem.

"This has been a topic of concern, but I think if you look back historically, the cost of housing has gone really high in the last few years and it's taken us a while to work on the problem," Barra said.

Barra also mentioned that some faculty members at UMW live as far away as Richmond to avoid the housing and living expenses of the Northern Virginia region.

After working here for little more than two years, Jim Groom from the department of teaching and learning technologies left UMW to work at the University of Richmond for the same reasons as Allen and Stone. He returned less than six weeks later with a different perspective.

"I couldn't replace what I did here at DTLT," Groom said. "I don't think there are many schools in the country doing what we're doing here."

He credited his return mainly to amiable faculty, the students and interactions among departments. "I think you have a great teaching and learning community, but you have economic forces greater than anyone's salary," Groom said.

President of the Faculty Senate Steve Fuller feels such forces limit faculty attraction more than it does to faculty retention.

"They come here knowing that, and we have a hard time getting people because of that: the high cost of living, the

high cost of housing and the low initial salaries," Fuller said. "Then, once somebody's here they've secured themselves a job in academia."

"It gives them a little leverage to look around and see maybe about getting a job somewhere... You can use this as a stepping stone to go some other places, where you can be accepted for the job," he said.

Stone expressed dissatisfaction with academia while discussing professorship.

"It's annoying and frustrating to think that as a wage earner with an advanced degree, and the intelligence of an intelligent person, there are certain parts of my country that I can't afford to live in, and still do the kind of work I want to do," Stone said.

"We teach all the time that that happens to the 'less fortunate' in our culture... I guess I'm joining the ranks of the 'less fortunate,'" she added.

Stone alleged that only with a partner whose wages were equal to or better than an assistant professor, could a person in her situation hope to be a homeowner in the region.

Groom holds the same supposition for himself and his wife, who is currently working on her doctoral degree.

"I definitely understand that if you were to buy here in Fredericksburg that you would need two incomes and healthy incomes," he said. "But for right now, I still believe that what I do here is more important than owning a house or living that lifestyle."

Groom currently rents a downtown apartment with his wife and two children.

As one of her department's newest members, Stone began teaching this past fall with a salary of what she says comes to \$50,000 including various grants. The average salary of an associate professor at UMW is \$68,556 per year.

Stone has not completed negotiations with SUNY Cortland University in Cortland, N.Y., and so was unable to discuss her potential salary there. She did say that SUNY Cortland offered her a higher paying position in a more affordable region.

## Budget Dips

◀ BUDGET, page 1

tion. "Now that it is permanent, two major adjustments will be an increase in tuition rates and a reduction in school budgets," Hurley said. "We are waiting for the actual budget so we can know by exactly how much to reduce our own budgets, and to see if the governor will give us any flexibility."

The capital outlay, the second portion of the Virginia budget that covers all facilities, maintenance, and construction projects, proposes \$606,000 for 2008-09 and \$640,000 for 2009-10 for maintenance reserve projects. This is a capital provision for UMW within the \$50 million being provided from state revenue.

"UMW is waiting for Richmond to resolve its differences about the capital [outlay]," Hurley said.

Recommendations of \$4.25 million in capital projects renovations for Monroe Hall, Lee Hall, and convocation center equipment, \$1 million for academic buildings renovations, and an additional \$3.6 million for Monroe Hall restorations was also outlined in the state budget, funded by state proceeds.

The \$800,000 for a new welding studio in Melchers Hall was recognized and approved by the state, but recognized as a project funded only by University funds.

"Another great example of this is the bell tower," Hurley said. "As a public institution, we must have permission from the state to build, even if it is our own funds or from a private source."

Hurley said that in the circumstance of having to make cuts in the budget, no specific department would be more impeded upon than any other department. However, the Campus Police and Admissions departments would not be altered.

"I have already informed the administration, we need to maintain our security levels, and keep that fully

functioning," he said.

UMW received \$440,000 from the Tuition Moderation Incentive Fund, which allows only a 1 percent increase in tuition rates to current undergraduate residential students, permitting that the money allocated from the 1 percent increase is spent solely for student aid for these students.

According to Hurley, the tentative 4 percent tuition rate increase is the budget's only discerning suggestion that students will notice, and most changes will be felt by University employees.

A governmental bond bill of \$23 million is provided in the budget to cover the obligatory campus construction in Dahlgren. Upon completion, the site, presided over by the University, will provide other Virginia engineering schools a location to teach courses.

If necessary, demands for certain UMW courses or programs could also be held at the Dahlgren campus in the future.

Within the \$50 million recommended statewide for projects like the funding for a campus in Dahlgren, Jepson Hall will receive funding for a \$7.1 million addition.

Lowered from the last couple of years, the salary for all state employees will increase 2 percent, effective Nov. 25.

Hurley said that although some areas of the University's operational and capital budgets have been financially reduced, overall the budget is a good one considering the current state of the economy.

"Our revenues as a state are down, in keeping with the rest of the country," Hurley said.

The University budget also incorporated a six-year capital improvement plan for UMW. Though no funding is provided, the plan offers the blueprint stages of projects like the Dahlgren campus, the Technology Convergence Center, a chilled water plant, and a network upgrade.



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# Entertainment

## Is Spears Back On Top? Britney Comeback v. 2.0

By CHARLOTTA JARBORG  
Staff Writer

Admit it. You miss Britney. Whether you want to call it a mini-comeback or not, most of us probably do want to see Britney do well — for her sanity, for her kids, for her happiness, and for the entertainment world in general. After three lackluster music videos from her latest

album "Blackout," Britney finally seems to be delivering a good on-screen performance.

If her guest starring role in the CBS sitcom "How I Met Your Mother" is anything to go by, then that absence was surely worth it. The video clips from the March 24 episode are all over the internet, and each clip can be watched separately on YouTube.

No pop-culture article would be complete without a little help from the Queen of All Media, Perez Hilton who blogs, "And, surprisingly enough, when it aired last night, the show received its highest ratings ever! Even more surprising, the critics liked it!" Perez also included two quotes from the Associated Press and News Daily, critiquing her appearance.

The latter said, "Those who hang on every one of Britney's career moves, this bold casting decision worked out. Spears proved she can

act every bit as well as she can sing, and with some of the nuances she brought to the character, you'd almost swear she'd been there before."

Let us hope that the singing versus acting comment was meant as a compliment.

Her role on the CBS sitcom might not be huge, and no, it might not be directly related to music. However, that is far from the point — we are finally seeing Britney working and actually succeeding. Regardless of size, this acting spot is a step in the right direction; a welcome change.

Funnily enough, I never quite realized how much I miss Britney sometimes as a true entertainer until I see her doing a good performance, looking healthy and pretty, and making me laugh — in a good way.

Along the lines of taboo laughter, perhaps some of you caught the controversial South Park episode which aired on Comedy Central on March 19. The episode centered on a troubled Spears tormented by the paparazzi who will stop at nothing as a means of sacrificing her for "harvest."

There are several moments in this episode when the viewer is unsure whether to laugh or to



image courtesy of thesrockspop.blogspot.com



image courtesy of blogs.cleveland.com

look away in horror, shock and disgust. The image of Spears' head half-blown off by a shotgun gives poignant new meaning to the lyrics "now are you sure you want a piece of me?" from "Blackout's" second single, entitled, of course, "Piece of Me."

The ludicrous nature of the storyline is darkly funny, yet the episode leaves you feeling pity for Britney and a renewed distaste for ferocious paparazzi.

The weaker South Park version of Britney became, the more uncomfortable it became to laugh.

The same is true for the real Spears. Making fun of Britney is actually not that fun anymore.

So yes, her performance at the last MTV Video Music Awards was no comeback by any means, and this guest spot on a sitcom is hardly the final step to the top either. However, it is an upward peak on an uneven path back to success.

## Upcoming Events

-Giant Productions Presents Shane Mauss

Thursday 7pm, Great Hall, Free

-The Undeniably Adjacent Improv Show

Friday 8pm, Combs 139, Free

-Performing Arts Club (PAC) Big Show

Saturday 7:30pm & Sunday 2pm, Dodd Auditorium, \$2-\$5

## Senior's Farewell

### Ozolins Prepares Last Performance

By ANDREA NEALON  
Staff Writer

Carol Crawford-Smith, a former dancer for New York's Dance Theater of Harlem.

"I think I'm best at afro-centric," she says, "but my favorite is modern."

It's 9:15 on a Tuesday night in Goolrick Hall, and although the building closes in less than an hour, you can hear a symphony of music, dance, and laughter coming from the dance studios in the back.

An employee pops his head into the studio to let the dancers know they only have a few minutes until closing time.

"Ok, we'll be out soon," says Krista Dray, the choreographer. "Just one more time through!"

Then, Bon Jovi's "Blaze of Glory" explodes once more from the stereo and the girls start from the top, ready to dance full out.

Among many students who are involved in dance here at Mary Washington, senior Marija Ozolins is rehearsing for the Performing Arts Club's annual spring performance.

"It's very exciting," she says. "I love all of my dances because they're all different styles."

A member of PAC since her freshmen year, Marija will be dancing in three pieces during the performance. The choreography for each of the dances is done through collaboration between students and alumni.

Ozolins, who was born in Madagascar but grew up in Tanzania, has been dancing all her life; however, she didn't start taking formal classes until the eighth grade.

When she first auditioned for PAC her freshman year, Ozolins admits that she was a little nervous.

"I wasn't sure I'd make it," says Ozolins, an International Affairs major. "I wasn't sure what to expect because I knew a lot of the girls who auditioned have been training since they were 3 or 4."

Ozolins, who began her formal training in ballet, modern, and afro-centric movement at the age of 13, studied at the Center for Dance in Blacksburg, Virginia. She trained under the direction of

company with approximately 8-10 dancers.

"I felt very privileged to be chosen, especially since they only take one or two dancers each year," says Ozolins.

While she continues to take classes and perform with PAC, Ozolins also teaches workshops for PAC and the Virginia Ballet Company.

She reflects fondly on all of her various dance experiences, particularly those at Mary Washington. She claims that the opportunity to participate in dance through the Performing Arts Club has made her college experience much more fulfilling.

"A lot of my best friends I've met through PAC," she says.

After the final twang of "Blaze of Glory" resonates in the dance studio, the girls, sweating and out of breath, gather their belongings and head out into the cool night air. With an air of confidence and excitement, they are ready to perform this weekend.

The spring performance, *Beyond Falling*, will be held Saturday, April 5th at 7:30p.m. and Sunday, April 6th at 2:00p.m. in Dodd auditorium.

It will run for approximately an hour and a half, and feature dance styles of ballet, jazz, modern, hip-hop, tap, and afro-centric movement. Because the dancers provide their own costumes and props, the entrance fees are \$2 per student, and \$5 per non-student.

The Performing Arts Club is open to all students wishing to audition, regardless of dance background.



Andrea Nealon/Bulletin

## the Spotlight

### "Warpaint"

by The Black Crowes (2008)

By LANDON JAMES  
Staff Writer

The Black Crowes have hatched another egg after seven years of hibernation in a tumultuous winter of band quarrels and disagreements.

The group came together to release "Warpaint" on March 3, 2008, and Rolling Stone

from the Daughters of the Revolution to God and he has just got it.

However, there is a stark and almost disturbing contrast between The Black Crowes' debut album "Shake Your Money Maker" and "Warpaint." The band does not feel as powerful and as fierce as The Black Crowes of Christmases past.

It is as if the eye of the storm, the calm in the lightning and thunder had put a calm over their music, though it's still compelling. "Shake Your Money Maker" birthed the band out of the womb with a guitar and an explosion, but "Warpaint" has put the band in the rocking chair with a yawn.

The album begins with their money maker "Goodbye Daughters of the Revolution" and carresses through slow, gut-wrenching blues to good ol' Southern rock that will bring out the accent in you for no particular reason.

"Locust Street" brings out the bluegrass roots in the band while three tracks down the road "God's Got It," my personal favorite of the album, is unleashed. "God's Got It" is the last big shazam, as Shaquille O'Neal would say, and from there the album progresses into psychedelia and obscurity.

The album concludes with "Here Comes Daylight," which I felt awkward and odd listening to completely sober. Cymbals, Robinson's voice and what may or may not have been back-masked sounds take the listener through a psychedelic trip where one may easily wander down the rabbit hole to find Alice talking with a hookah-smoking caterpillar.

I was expecting more Southern rock and bluesy get-off-your-seat-and-shake-your-butt songs, but the band takes a softer approach.

Though The Black Crowes fall short on this album, their seven-year absence from studio releases got the public's mouth watering so profusely that they

probably could have put one track on their album of Robinson talking about how much he loves cream-filled donuts and the fans would have gone nuts.

Borrow this album from a friend or it buy off iTunes, but do not pay full price or you will regret your decision.

"Warpaint" gets two Chris Robinson Jesus beards out of five.

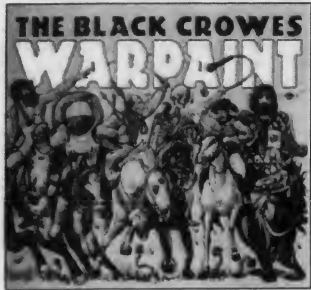


image courtesy of amazon.com

Magazine describes it as "brawny Southern Rock and psychedelic R&B ecstasy" and they were not lying...entirely.

The album takes on an entirely lighter side and approach to their past albums, yet feels at home breaking out hard-driving rock songs.

Frontman Chris Robinson is so bluesy that rainbows might just have to ask the government for some more pigment. He sings of everything



# Feat♀res

## You Go, Girl

### Famous Feminist Speaks at UMW

By LAUREN JURGENSEN  
Staff Writer

Jessica Valenti thinks that feminism is the hippest accessory a young woman can have today - it is never going to go out of fashion.

The feministing.com blogger, who came to Great Hall last Wednesday, March 26, as the keynote speaker for Women's History Month, said that she wants young women to realize that not only is feminism still relevant in today's culture, but it is also really cool.

"Telling women that only ugly man haters are feminists is a really strategic way to keep young women away from feminism," Valenti said. "Most young women do hold feminist values but are afraid of the word 'feminist' because of those connotations."

Valenti added that there is a mounting population of self-identifying feminists who are young, trendy, intellectual and witty.

Her speech, "Full Frontal Feminism (Or, Why Feminism is a Lot Damn Cooler Than You Think)" also covered the roadblocks Valenti thinks prevent young women from assuming more active roles in women's rights. These roadblocks include everything from the aforementioned negative stereotypes of feminism, to sexist notions of women as the property of men, to the belief that you can only be a feminist if you're a political activist.

"You don't have to be an activist to be a feminist," Valenti said. "Use feminism as a lens to view the world."

But she wasn't just speaking to the females in the audience - Valenti believes that men can and should be feminists, too. Young men made up about 1/3 of the audience that night.

Dr. Helen Housley, Assistant Professor of Theatre and Chair of the Women's History Month

committee, said that the committee's goal is to bring UMW a wide variety of speakers who can highlight the multitude of issues impacting women's experience.

"The committee believed a speaker who specifically focused on the issue of feminism from a 21st-century perspective would interest the students at UMW," Dr. Housley said. "The various topics Valenti addresses in her book are matters of concern for many women and hearing her speak about these issues might provide a unique perspective for today's college student."

Professors weren't the only ones who appreciated Valenti's message.

"I consider myself a third wave feminist and Valenti is one of the spokespersons for the modern feminist movement," said Jenny Stout, a senior Anthropology major. "I really admire how down to earth and open she is."

In addition to being executive editor of feministing.com, Valenti holds a masters degree in

“ Use feminism as a lens to view the world.”

-Jessica Valenti

women's and gender studies from Rutgers University. She is also responsible for the creation of The Real Hot 100 List, a response to Maxim's Hot 100 that honors women for their achievements rather than their looks.

This past spring she published her first book, "Full Frontal Feminism: A Young Woman's Guide to Why Feminism Matters."

Her next book, "He's a Stud, She's a Slut, and 49 Other Double-Standards Every Woman Should Know," is set for release this May.

Stout hopes that Valenti's upcoming projects will widen her audience.

"I think if more girls and guys our age knew about Valenti and what her brand of feminism is all about, they'd be more interested in being active in the feminist movement," Stout said. "They should not be afraid of the word 'feminist'."



Courtesy of feministing.com

Jessica Valenti, founder of the popular women's rights website feministing.com, spoke about women's rights and her new book last Wednesday, March 26, in Great Hall.

## Dancing With the Students

### Student Choreographer Prepares for Upcoming Performing Arts Club Show

By KAT SAUNDERS  
Staff Writer

Alex Lindemann can't dance anymore, yet she is one of the most recognizable members of the student run Performing Arts Club.

The Mary Washington junior had multiple surgeries on her ankles, beginning in high school. She's ripped out three ligaments. Both of her ankles roll and sprain easily, sometimes she wraps them with duct tape for support.

Despite the fact that she can't dance as much as she would like to, she regularly choreographs pieces for PAC and the University Dance Team.

"I love choreographing. It never stops with me," Lindemann said. "A piece can never really be done, in my mind. You can keep pushing it and keep reworking it"

Lindemann has choreographed 10 pieces for PAC in the past five years, including two pieces for the upcoming show in April.

A dancer since age seven, she is trained in ballet. As she grew older, however, her ankles began to develop problems. Her sophomore year of high school, she underwent her first surgery.

"I inherited weak ankles from my father, and several severe ankle sprains stretched the ligaments to a point where they were so loose a surgical procedure was done to shorten them," Lindemann said.

The surgery made wearing toe shoes painful and dancing en pointe impossible. Unable to continue with classical ballet, she joined her high

school dance team and learned hip hop dancing.

She also attended the Governor's School during a summer at the University of Richmond, where she received some lessons in choreography.

Her first choreography assignment at the Governor's School was to dance as a well known character.

She chose Oliver Twist, and learned an important lesson about dance and choreography.

"I did this silly type of dance," she recalled. "The professor laughed and me and said 'You're miming. You're not dancing.' I learned how to use movement as a medium expression. There are some lessons I'll keep with me always."

In college, she joined PAC, the student organized dance club.

PAC offers free dance classes and puts together two student organized dance shows a year. Through the club, she gained more dance experience and began arranging dances for the shows.

Unfortunately, during her second year at UMW,

Lindemann underwent her second surgery. Three of the ligaments in her right ankle had torn. Despite physical therapy, her ankles were too weakened to continue dancing intensively.

She began wrapping her ankles with duct tape, stronger and more supportive than band-aids, allowing her to point her toes.

Rather than risk further injury now, she does low impact dancing, which includes "marking," planning steps in a choreographed

piece.

"I can't dance anymore. Choreography is my art. It's my way to dance. I'm constantly thinking about it," she said.

Lindemann says her dances are inspired by everything - listing emotion, nature and accentuating her dancers' personal strengths.

"Sometimes it's just the exploration of movement itself. Trying to make things flow and never having a stopping point...that's something I really try to achieve," Lindemann said.

One of her new dances, a modern piece set to

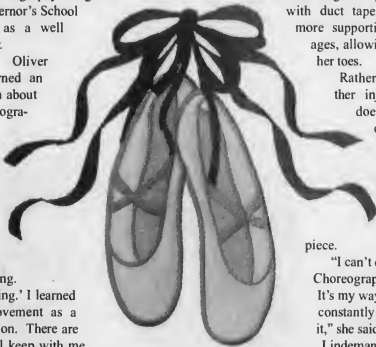
the "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" score, was inspired by the movements of running gazelles. It will be featured as the Senior Piece at the April 5 PAC show.

Lindemann works at the Virginia Dance Company in northern Virginia, assisting at a friend's studio.

She would like to continue her dance education, although no major exists at Mary Washington, and few schools have dance study or choreography classes that don't require intensive and regular dancing.

Still, Lindemann plans to keep dance in her future.

"I'll always do this somehow," she said. "No matter how much duct tape I need."



Come to the PAC show!

Saturday, April 5  
@ 7:30 p.m.  
and  
Sunday, April 6  
@ 2:00 p.m.

Dodd Auditorium

## Thumbs Up...Thumbs Down...



Christmas lights in the spring



Runny noses

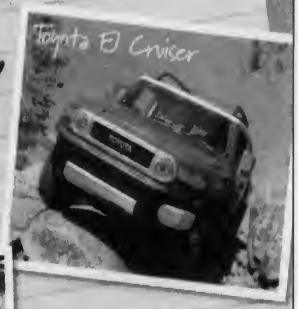


Smiley face, cupcakes



Temperatures below 40

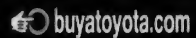
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# Bullshit

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Volume 614, No. 1

Filling George Washington's Mother Since 1922

April 1, 2008

## What's Not here

### Watkins Slows Down



Associate Professor, pictured above playing a Live Earth event in his front yard, abandons dreams and settles for mansion

### Poor Hamble



Future President lines up part-time job at All-man's to supplement low income of position, p. 7

### Editorial Staff Arrested



Bullet production ceased in order to stop rampant underappreciation and tasteless jokes, p. 3

## Weekend Weather

with  
**STEVE  
WATKINS**

### Friday



**ENORMOUS  
HURRICANE**

High: 48  
Low: 37

### Saturday



Scattered Falling  
Kiwi

High: 60  
Low: 40

### Sunday



Happy

High: 66  
Low: 49

## Acting Prez Kidnapped

By JUSTIN TONEY  
Punk-ass Dope Fiend

Members of the board of visitors' secret police force, the "Alumni-ati," kidnapped Acting President Rick Hurley from his office last Tuesday.

Vice president for administration and finance, acting president of the University of Mary Washington, and self-proclaimed "George Washington's Daddy" Mr. Richard V. Hurley vanished shortly after midnight on April 1.

UMW students were unaware that Hurley had been missing until someone created a Facebook group early this morning.

Acting acting president and dean of faculty Rosemary Barra explained why the administration has made no announcement of the incident.

"Get out of my office," she said while throwing a decorative porcelain cat.

Since assuming the duties of president, Barra has doubled Fredericksburg's homeless population by paying associate professors with peanuts she acquired from eating at the local Five Guys restaurant. No attempt to locate Hurley has been made by the administration.

According to Facebook rumors, many believe the Alumni-ati keep Hurley locked in the clock tower where he may or may not be facing corporal punishment at the hand of men's basketball coach Rodrick Wood.

While the identities of the Alumni-ati remain a mystery due to their exemption from the Freedom of Information Act (it's an allegory!), public attention has turned to their employers—the Mary Washington board of

visitors.

According to rector William Poole, Hurley has been charged with presiding under the influence of sanity and illegal distribution of honest sentiment to students. Each charge constitutes a class 2 whoopie-doozey.

"Hurley just wasn't showing the qualities of what we deem to be a good leader," explained Poole in an unprecedented display of speaking on record. "He just wasn't bat-shit-crazy like the last two."

Before becoming acting president, Hurley upset the board by resisting their plans to purchase the city of Fredericksburg as a supplemental office space.

"I've seen him pinch pennies until they bleed," said Poole. "I'm not kidding. He has a very strong grip," he added.

Members of a Facebook group called "Graffiti Journalists" blame Hurley's arrest on Del. Mark Cole: a licensed conserva-

jump to conclusions about a man's character and that crazed young liberals like the graffiti journalists are all punk-ass dope fiends. I mean, just look at those black clothes," Poole said.

In a telephone interview with Del. Cole, the Spotsylvania republican admitted to masterminding Hurley's "violent snatch-er-oo". He claimed that he was motivated to remove Hurley when he found out that the acting president used to protest the Vietnam War.

"It's not his old anti-war protests that bother me," said Cole. "Well, actually it is. I'm all for savin' the whales and

such, but what right-minded Virginian wouldn't wanna take a shot at Charlie?"

Del. Cole then went on to shoot 13 anti-arms lobbyists at his private gun club. He also shot his own cat for licking itself in public. "That was mostly cause 13's an unlucky number, though," he explained.

In response to the statements, Students for A Republican Society (SARS) plan to hold a protest against the existence of delegates. They will meet at the local Texaco to buy cigarettes, vandalize property and then march to George Washington Hall unless they forget.

“Where'd he go?  
--Mrs. Hurley

## Hurley Raps Up



Emily McAlpine/Bullshit

Hurley, shown above in his newest bling giving mad props to his dawgs, announced that he will be pursuing his rap career when he steps down as Acting President this summer. He is currently in negotiations with Def Jam Records.

## What the Peep?

By WILL COPPS  
Badass

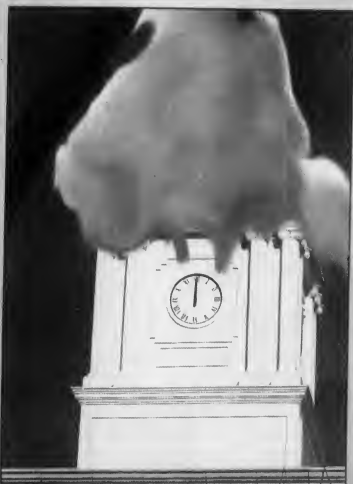
A giant Peep marshmallow candy has appeared atop the new UMW bell tower, and Associate Professor of English Steve Watkins is under arrest. The effects could ripple through the entire faculty and staff of UMW.

"I just wanted to add a little character to our school, damn it," Watkins said.

According to the New York Times, Watkins injected himself with Human Growth Hormone (HGH) in order to scale the new bell tower on campus, carrying the giant Peep marshmallow candy.

Watkins, who repeatedly spoke out against the initial tower plans

► See PEEP, page 2



Will Copps/Bullshit

Frawley Construction was hired to drive a crane onto campus to try to remove the giant Peep. However, it melted too quickly. The police are banking on the newly insurgent raccoons having a S'more social with the squirrel residents.

## 'Fool' Watkins Gets the OLD

Associate Professor Contracts Early-Onset Out-dated Lenin-ite Degeneracy

By AARON RICHARDSON  
Propaganda Minister

Associate professor of English Stephen H. Watkins has started showing symptoms of a rare disease known to affect aging hippies. Out-dated Leninite Degeneracy (OLD) attacks the central nervous system, and causes the afflicted to slowly lose their revolutionary spark.

Colleagues began to notice the symptoms when Watkins stopped angering university officials. Watkins, who had been known to make life difficult for the university's "ruling class," got more amiable under the new administration of former president William J. Frawley.

"I never heard a peep out of him," Frawley said in a rare interview with the Bullshit.

By contrast, former president William Anderson said, "That punky little upstart never gave me a moment's peace. My only regret is that I could never fire him."

Anderson then mumbled something about marshmallow Peeps, and spat up on his robe.

Watkins, a balding father of four, is excited to move his office into the mansion on the corner of College Avenue and William Street at the end of the summer. One of the most pervasive symptoms of OLD is an acceptance of

material wealth.

"I'm not going to see any damn professional," Watkins said. "I'm only 53 years old, you'd think a grown man could do what he wants."

Recently, Watkins has thrown away his collection of Grateful Dead bootlegs in favor of "Tony Bennett Sings His Hits," and the Bert Bacharach collection.

Students have noticed Watkins assigning more homework recently, another symptom of OLD. Additionally, Watkins recently grilled a student for having a copy of Jack Kerouac's "On The Road" on his desk.

"What are you reading that blasted beatnik drivel for," Watkins reportedly asked.

"Watkins basically has the hippie version of Alzheimer's Disease," said health center specialist Dr. Nick Riviera. Riviera, apparently deaf to the cries of an agonized student in the lobby, continued that Watkins will soon begin to trust anyone over 30.

"It will go down hill from there," Riviera said as he filled himself out a prescription for Vicodin, "there's nothing modern medicine can really do."





# Cop Corner

By STING  
(and THE POLICE)



**March 25-** At 11:58 p.m., a student reported to Fredericksburg police that a raccoon gang war was underway right outside Woodard Campus Center. Police responded with cans of pepper spray and their new M4 assault rifles. 3 raccoons and 2 officers were killed in the shootout. Police Chief Snipes had no comment, but seemed to be foaming a bit at the mouth.

**March 26-** At 12:13 a.m., three Virginia Hall residents reported "creepy-looking" animals and an "odd-looking" man watching them through their window. The case is currently under investigation.

**March 26-** At 12:18 a.m., Associate Professor Steve Watkins was found running around with an M4 outside Lee Hall, leading a "small pack of furry-looking creatures." Instead of stopping him, officer Gagliardi instructed him on proper use of the weapon.

**March 26-** At 2:23 a.m., Associate Professor Steve Watkins found yelling at a pack of "tiny creatures" for not using proper

pronunciation. There was no crime committed, except for a possible noise violation. There were no suspects in the case, except maybe Steve Watkins.

**March 26-** At 2:24 a.m., Associate Professor Steve Watkins found dead, with a pen through his forehead. The case is currently under investigation. The police suspect editors of the *Bullet*.

**March 26-** At 2:39 a.m. UMW's resident hawk noticed a pack of raccoons eating the dead body of an unidentified Associate Professor of English. According to the hawk, the raccoons fled into a dumpster. Former UMW president William Anderson mistakenly awarded the hawk a medal of courage for "finally killing that damn Watkins."

**April 1-** At 12:00 p.m., a giant melting Peep appeared on the belltower. Witnesses claim to have seen the ghost of Steve Watkins walking among them and making lewd jokes. The case is currently under investigation.

**April 3-** At 12:01 a.m., 20-year-old sophomore Claire Copsps was arrested for sucking.

**April 3-** 12:02 a.m., 21-year-old badass Will Copsps was arrested for libel.

**April 3-** 12:02 a.m., 21-year-old punk-ass dope fiend Justin Toney deemed "incestuous libel" to be a better term for Copsps' crimes, but everyone thought that was a little weird. This led to a furious stapler battle between Copsps and Toney. They were both subdued by 8-year-old hottie Sally Libel and reported to campus police.

**Dec. 21, 2012-** Officer Gagliardi observed God attempting to destroy the Earth at the end of the Mayan calendar. Using his magical bicycle to propel him toward Heaven, Gagliardi approached God who appeared to be drunk with power. God was arrested on six-billion counts of attempted murder and one count of being drunk in an ethereal realm.

## Letter to the Editor:

To Whom it May Concern,

First of all, I would like to thank the *Bullet* for giving me this opportunity to preach closed-mindedly at their readers.

Second, and with unnecessary parenthetical clauses, I would like to condemn the *Bullet* for being a sensationalist yellow rag on behalf of the entire single white female population of Mary Wash.

Next, they didn't give the mad

props that the SDS deserved for honorably defaming the board of visitors with their righteous vandalism and smoking.

Fourthly, this letter was once a beautiful 1500 words until that harlot of a whore, Susannah Clark, edited it down to this measly size.

My angst with the *Bullet* is not a backlash against the over-conservative life I had under my parents. I hate them too.

Finally, if it were up to me,

which it isn't, but I wish it were, I'd have the whole editorial board shot.

In conclusion, the *Bullet* sucks and nobody reads it... except for all of you who should just read this letter so that you'll know to put it down until the next time I write in it.

Brunhilda Bichalot  
is a freshman

## Watkins' Peep Show

*Professor Foiled In Attempt to Replace UMW Mascot with Marshmellow; Faces Prison Time*

◀ PEEP, page 1

that called for an eagle atop the tower, said that a giant Peep would be more effective in drawing people to the school. "An eagle? Come on. We might as well cover our campus with thousands of bricks and be like every other college in the United States."

Although the eagle was not placed atop the \$1.3 million tower, Watkins refused to let go of his plan. He was injecting himself weekly with HGH so that he could climb the bell tower with the giant Peep, estimated at weighing 175 pounds, in hand.

The peep was formed a week earlier by stealing Easter baskets from thousands of local children and melting their Peeps together over a huge bonfire.

One onlooker was absolutely outraged.

"You know, if he's gonna do that with all the candy I bring to kids, I might just have to cancel Easter," said the Easter Bunny, adding that he planned to "beat Watkins' ass" if he ever saw him on the street.

The source of the HGH was unknown until the police arrested OSACS Director Joe Mollo yesterday when traces were found in the school's new sound system by HGH experts from Major League Baseball. Mollo will now serve a minimum of 20 years in prison. If the Easter bunny in fact steps down, Mollo and Watkins may be given al-



ternative sentences to take on his duties for the next 20 years.

"It's not so bad. I like giving free popcorn to the students, so I don't see what the big difference is," Mollo said.

Dean Rucker spoke out in favor of what the investigators were doing. "I'll miss Joe, sure. But it really is time to get Watkins fired. I'm throwing a party in the new mansion."

Watkins had an office space reserved in the newly acquired building on College Avenue, but it will now go to former President Frawley, who suddenly looks fantastic by comparison.

Watkins is looking for a job at colleges with cooler mascots, like Drexel University, who are the Dragons.

Former Assistant Professor of English Steve Watkins will seek employment in a more Peep-friendly environment.

**Hey Ladies...**  
**In honor of Sexclimations,**  
**Viewpoints will now be**  
**All N00dz!!1!**

**Send in your N00dz to**  
**willcopsps@gmail.com**

**(Sorry, only b00bz, d00dz)**

## 'Spanks, Coach!



Coach Wood, in one of his rare moments of anger at a men's basketball game, is seen here spanking a referee for making a bad, bad call. It is not rumored that the official enjoyed his spanking. Nobody said that.

### Love of 3 Wheels: A Sonnet

by the Polemic

My Frawley's eyes are nothing like missing tires.  
His lips are not red like Cherry NyQuil is red  
(except on Wednesdays and road trips).  
His cookies are not delicious as Keebler cookies.  
My Frawley's head shines not as bright  
as suns or those reflecting lawn orbs.  
Like frost on his lips I shine;  
like Frawley-laid snow.  
A dark-haired woman wraps his little ego.  
She juggles and googles and tintinabulates.  
Then she comes to him like a swarm of locust,  
and, alas, my Frawley was never the same.  
Your NyQuil is red. My letterhead is blue.  
And though you are gone, I wish I could quit you.

## Rainz Clapping / Rainz Napping



Kaine Naps for keeping VA in good economic health.



Kaine Claps for wasting money on inefficient transportation development.



Kaine Naps for more funds to Virginia higher education



Kaine Claps for looking like a gnome and a closet-case vampire.

# Sports



## Student Athlete Will Never Forget

*Junior Basketball Player Katie Clarkin Helped Start the Erin Peterson Fund After The Virginia Tech Shootings*

By **KIM PERNICE**  
Staff Writer

On the morning of April 16, 2007, junior Katie Clarkin did what almost every other student on campus did: she took out her cell phone and called everyone she knew who was a student at Virginia Tech, including high school friend and teammate Erin Peterson.

"I remember calling all of my friends that go to Virginia Tech," Clarkin said. "I heard back from all except her. I did everything I could to try and keep my mind off of it. I tried watching Disney movies all day long. I got no sleep that night. I knew to expect the worst, but I didn't want to believe it and finding out the next day was the worst news ever."

Peterson was shot and killed in French class in Norris Hall.

Clarkin, a neighbor of the Petersons, found out about the death on the morning of April 17.

"It's much quieter without [Erin] around," Clarkin said, a student at the University of Mary Washington. "It's hard to put into words. The Petersons live in a cul-de-sac and Erin was always around. The people that used to hang around aren't there anymore."

Clarkin, a member of the UMW women's basketball team, attended Westfield High School with Peterson, where they played varsity basketball together.

"During basketball season, I would spend around 18 hours a day with Erin," said Clarkin, a business administration major. "Between classes, practices, games, and bus rides, we spent a lot of time together."

Since Peterson's death, Clarkin established a strong and lasting relationship with Peterson's parents, including starting a fund in Peterson's memory.

Celeste Peterson, Erin's mother, described Clarkin as a "gentle natured girl with a great sense

of humor and somewhat of a homebody, only meaning she loves her family and enjoys being home."

"[Katie] e-mails me every night and has helped with the pain of losing Erin," Peterson said. "She has been a true blessing in our lives."

The Petersons have known Clarkin since 2002, when Peterson was a freshman and Clarkin a sophomore. However, Clarkin is better known to the Petersons as "Fred," her high school nickname.

"When I have come to watch her play [at UMW] and yell out, 'GO FRED!' everyone turns to look at me and my husband," Peterson said. "It's kind of funny."

According to Clarkin, her father, who was also her basketball coach growing up, nicknamed her "Fred," as a little girl. There was always another Katie on her team so her father and the other girls called her "Fred." The nickname stuck throughout high school but does not continue at UMW.

As a basketball player, Clarkin described herself as a team player and always trying to put the team before her.

Head Coach Deena Applebury described her as having an unbelievable amount of strength and a strong defensive player with tons of hidden potential.

Clarkin, who made a half-court shot against Gallaudet College at the sound of the first-half buzzer, played in all 31 games this season. She said she was usually second off of the bench as a back-up point guard and shooting guard.

Clarkin led the team in 3-point field goals made, averaging 1.5 3-point field goals made per game.

Off the court, however, Clarkin's aggressive nature subsides.

In the wake of what she recalls as one of the worst days of her life, Clarkin assisted the Peterson family in creating the Erin Peterson Fund.

"Erin was the kind of person that just wanted to help people," said Clarkin. "We wanted to do

something to remember her by so I stayed in close contact with her parents and the Erin Peterson Fund was formed."

The Erin Peterson Fund is a non-profit fund that was established in memory of Peterson's dream to help the less fortunate. Beginning in 2007, and continuing each year, the fund awards two \$1000 scholarships to deserving Westfield High School graduates: the Erin Peterson Commit to Excel Award and the Erin Peterson Leadership Award.

"In the beginning I wasn't that involved because I was still at school," Clarkin said, "but my dad went to all of the meetings so I knew what was going on. Once I got home, I became very involved by attending more meetings and spreading the word whenever I could."

In addition to her busy school and basketball schedule, Clarkin enjoys listening to rap and hip-hop music, but she spends a lot of spare time trying to get information out about the Erin Peterson Fund. She stays in close contact with her teammates from high school to come up with new ways to fundraise.

"She continues to talk up the fund wherever she goes," Peterson said. "It's so wonderful to see a young person so committed without tiring from this effort."

On Jan. 19, Clarkin organized a fundraiser to support the Erin Peterson Fund at the men's and women's home basketball games. All donations raised during that game, which according to Applebury were around \$1500, were given to the fund. The Petersons were in attendance at those games.

"Erin loved basketball," Clarkin said. "So I couldn't think of a better way to honor her memory than to tribute her with a basketball game."

Clarkin has also been instrumental in helping the fund organize a charity golf tournament that will take place on April 7 in Chantilly.

Clarkin predicts that she will continue to help



Courtesy Clint Olsen and Richard Orr  
**Clarkin goes up for a jump shot at last year's NCAA Tournament.**

out with the fund in the future.

"If time allows me, and I can up with new ways to raise money I would love to do more in the UMW community," Clarkin said. "It means a lot to me, and I would really like to continue helping out. I don't see myself stopping."

### Team of the Week

The University of Mary Washington Women's Tennis team dominated Claremont-Mudd-Scripps College with a 5-0 shutout this past Sunday

Next Match: April 4  
Vs. Carnegie Mellon

### Athlete of the Week

Senior midfielder Scott Fletcher had two goals and an assist in the Lacrosse team's victory against Chirstopher Newport University this past Saturday.

Next Match: April 5  
@ York College

### Campus Recreation Upcoming Events



**TENNIS TOURNAMENT**  
Event type: 2-day tournament  
Entries open: March 31  
Entries close: April 9  
Event date: April 12

**KICKBALL TOURNAMENT**  
Event type: 1 day tournament  
Entries open: April 7  
Entries close: April 17  
Event date: April 19

Register online at  
[www.umw.edu/recreation](http://www.umw.edu/recreation)

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# Sports

## Eagles Stay Strong; Beat CNU



Emily McAlpine/Bullet

Senior midfielder Scott Fletcher tries to break through a CNU double-team. Fletcher had two goals and an assist in the Eagles win over the Capitals, 6-4.

By **ASHLEY SCHARF**  
Staff Writer

The University of Mary Washington Eagles men's lacrosse team was able to put together a strong showing in their defeat of the Christopher Newport Capitals. Though the Eagles were down early, they came storming back to win the game, 6-4.

Senior midfielder Scott Fletcher put the Eagles on the board with their first two goals of game and later assisted sophomore Ryan Baldwin for another goal.

The Eagles went into the half with the momentum as sophomore attack Brian Meaney extended the lead and junior midfielder Dan Bamford put one in the back of the net just before the half.

"We try not to expect to win because expecting to win can cause our team to come out and not play as hard as we could," Meaney said. "But we definitely felt that this was a game we could win if we went out and played to the best of our abilities."

"Our ultimate goal is to win every game we play, but coming off a loss to St. Mary's we wanted to bounce back and play well," Meaney said. "Our season has had highs and lows, we lost a few games earlier in the season that we felt we could win such as Hampden-Sydney and McDaniel but I feel like we have improved from last year."

In the second half the Eagle defense steadily picked up holding the Captains to just one goal. No performance was as important in the second half as freshman goalie Ryan Kleman's. His numerous saves gave the men's Eagles a chance.

UMW scored its sixth and final goal of the game with just 3:53 left in the game on a goal by sophomore Dan Coats.

"I would say Dan Bamford's goal at the end of the first half was the highlight of the game," Meaney said. "It gave us a two goal cushion going into halftime and it was the eventual game winner."

"[Bamford] Was the hero of the game. He does not get much playing time but when he does he comes in and gets his chance," Glaeser

said. "He does what we tell him to do, [he] picks a spot and shoots. It's about location in shooting, where you shoot not how hard you shoot."

“  
We definitely felt that  
this was a game we  
could win.

-Brian Meaney

The Eagles didn't let past losses in the season effect their play on the field, always confident in their abilities as athletes. Coach Kurt Glaeser knows the team is getting better, how-

ever is aware that the team has not yet reached its full potential.

UMW is currently 5-4 in the season but Glaeser looks ahead with confidence. The Salisbury game looks to be a challenge but not one that the Eagles will shy away from.

"If we show up we could make it interesting, they are No. one in the country and undefeated in the conference," Glaeser said. "But if we play like we have in the past we will get slaughtered."

"Based on the trend I am a little disappointed, I thought in some games we could have done better," Glaeser said. "We need to play to our potential every game."

As far as the team's goal for the rest of the spring 2008 season, there is hope.

"Two wins out of the next three games, and get home field spot in playoffs which is not easy after Salisbury and the next games, but we will be in if we play well," Glaeser said. "We do have a good shot of achieving that."

## Clean Slates on Opening Day

By **JOEY MERKEL**  
Sports Editor

I'm a fairly religious person, but let's just say the amount of times I've been in a synagogue in the past two years can be counted on one hand. Oriole Park at Camden Yards is my place of worship and the "Oriole Bird" is my false prophet.

For me, baseball and the Baltimore Orioles are very sensitive subjects. Talk trash about my team or my sport, I'm ready to throw down in the verbal formality.

This past Monday I was lucky enough to attend the Orioles season and home opener in Baltimore at Oriole Park. Sadly, I had to miss my classes that day, but opening day only happens once a year and I can learn about the subjective form of Spanish verbs whenever.

My friends and I arrived early to the game, wandered around the ballpark looking for the best hot dog stand. Most of the time you can find better dogs outside for cheaper than inside. By the time we were at the ticket taker our hot dogs were finished and we were looking for

something else to sink our teeth into.

Entering the stadium we were overwhelmed with the feeling that every baseball fan gets when they enter a ballpark on opening day or sit down to watch the game on TV. "This is our year," I said to myself. In our hearts we know that there is no way that the Orioles come remotely to contending this year but for a lucky few, baseball is infectious, it gives us hope.

“  
Oriole Park at Camden  
Yards is my place of  
worship...

-Joey Merkel

For other fans, this year was different. It was the first inning when I noticed that most of the stadium was not very full. It was understandable—we were playing the Rays and we are entering our eleventh straight season with a losing record.

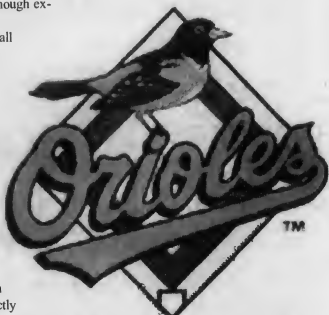
Understandable? Yes. Is it a good enough excuse? No.

Baseball fans do not stop being baseball fans. Go ahead and stop loving your team, you fair-weather fans, but don't take it out on the rest of the fans. The first inning of the game was the best an O's fan could hope for, a double steal, a two-run double and left-fielder who makes an error right in front of you thus deserving thirty minutes of heckling.

As our "ace" pitcher slowly crumbled, he went on to give up six runs over six and a third innings. The one bright spot after that was that it had stopped raining.

My friends and I left Oriole Park with a shot of pure real world injected directly into our bloodstreams. The magical glow of opening day had disappeared and we knew where the team was heading in 2008: the basement of the American League East.

The Orioles lost 6-2 Monday. I'm not happy about it but there is not anything I can do about it. I'm not playing. But what us fans should be doing is going out there and rooting our asses off so that when our teams do start to win we can have the



The Orioles once associated with winning, is now a synonymous of losing.

last laughs.

So I write this to all fans of losing teams—the Giants, Pirates and Royals. Don't give up hope on your favorite teams. Someday our time will come.